

# THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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## THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

### HELP AND HINTS IN SEASON.

The Llandudno Conference has come and gone, and the press are mightily disappointed. Not to be outdone the "Daily Telegraph" came out on the Thursday in the conference week, with a placard "Labour Split Widens." Well, we have seen no evidence of that split yet, and when it comes along we suppose the organisers of the Party will be the first to know about it.

Our own impression of the Llandudno Conference is that a more momentous gathering has not been held for years, and that the proceedings have gone far towards placing the fortunes of the Party on an even keel again. In July we discussed in these columns the criticism complex of our Party and assured our readers that the Party was in no danger of a split. We told our readers that it was the business of the organisers to make the team work—the whole team—and to make it work as a team. No finer illustration of the whole team at work could be found than an examination of the proceedings at Llandudno.

Criticism there was, of course, but who could honestly say that it was all, or mainly, destructive, and on the other hand that criticism was not met and answered, and even invited on occasions.

The MacDonald-Maxton interlude was we hope, the prelude to a happier connection. As a broad philosophy we lay it down that the minds of the constructive statesman and of the whirling propagandist can never completely understand one another or jog in harness together. But, however profoundly an individual may differ from the temperament of one or the other Llandudno proved that the Party was big enough to hold the extremists of both right and left. It is in this way that Labour marches along, and though we may pray sometimes for the soft pedal, it is not the organiser's business to refuse or to neglect to call all sections to his aid.

Yes, the press were disappointed. It was interesting to note how every press-

man grabbed his pencil when Bevin dropped the remark that he was tired of making promises that could not be fulfilled. The pencils did not work to take in the conjunctive argument of the speaker. The lifted sentence, of course, would serve, as it already has served in the last few days, in the mouths of Liberal and Tory speakers and writers, to discredit. It is fortunate indeed that the British public knows its press lords, and also its platform praters. But the press are a sticky lot!

Reports reach us of excellent successes arising out of membership campaigns among the "Daily Herald" new readers. This is distinctly encouraging, but there are yet great territories where our Local Parties have not grasped the opportunity for membership which this year's campaign afforded to them. The present Municipal Elections are the first elections to be fought in the lifetime of the new "Daily Herald." In spite of the press campaign to disparage Labour, the benefit of the "Daily Herald's" existence is bound to be found on November 1st. In the meantime "Daily Herald" readers should be specially looked up in the boroughs and canvassed. They should form a new backbone among the electorate. We believe the "Daily Herald" will be found ready to co-operate with Local Parties by means of a poster campaign, and in other ways, where a Local Party will reciprocate, and this reciprocation pays at election times as well as at other times.

It is somewhat surprising to find that there are still some Local Labour Parties which have not adopted new rules in accordance with the Brighton Conference decisions, and there are even a few who have not yet taken their membership cards for the present year. We understand that the Party Executive is receiving a special report regarding these Parties and will consider what action is necessary. It is devoutly to

be hoped that where the rules have not yet been revised immediate steps will be taken to do this. We believe that in some cases neglect to revise the rules is due to a genuine fear that local circumstances may not secure recognition by the endorsement of suitable amendments. We believe this to be an idle fear, and in most cases the difficulty can be got over by calling in the Regional Officer of the Labour Party to consult regarding suggested amendments. Regarding the Labour Party membership cards it cannot be too widely known that no person is an individual member of the Labour Party unless holding a National Labour Party card.

In diagnosing the source of troubles in Local Parties we frequently find that the cause of much trouble to the secretary and want of understanding within the Party arises from a lack of functioning by the Executive Committee. By this we do not mean that the Executive does not meet. The full functioning of an Executive goes far beyond the holding of stipulated periodical meetings. The onus and responsibility for Party work cannot be settled either wholly or mainly by decisions taken at meetings. There is a great deal of work beyond, and the sensible secretary takes care that his Executive not only sits and talks, and passes resolutions, but that it also takes its share of the routine work. Sub-Committee work is one method of getting the Executive down to business, but there are also several other ways in which individuals on an Executive can be charged with specific responsibilities. We profoundly believe also in central Executives taking on the visitation of the local units in their area. Thus in a borough, instead of the secretary being the only man expected to visit the wards a couple of specially-deputed Executive Members will probably do far better work. This is particularly so in County Divisions, and the value of these deputations is found in closer contact and a more general appreciation by the Executive of the problems of organisation which confront it. We know that some secretaries boast of being autocrats—that their Executives do as they wish them to, etc., etc.—but the really successful organiser knows how to get his wishes carried out and to get his Executive working with him in their accomplishment. At any rate, Executive responsibility is a sound

doctrine, and responsibility should be earned.

An interesting point concerning the register of electors has been presented to us from Bradford. It has been the custom in Bradford to print the new address of an elector in addition to his last qualifying address, where, before the printing of the register an elector had changed his address, and the address was known to the Registration Officer. Such a course is obviously of great convenience to election agents, and saves a great deal of trouble in tracing removals and in addressing envelopes.

On the ground that the procedure mentioned involves added expense the Registration Officer has this year discontinued the practice and we understand that the Home Office hold that there is no authority to sustain the practice, and the consequent additional expense. This is a disappointing view because the register of electors is greatly improved in value when it contains the last officially known address of the voters. As a general principle we contend that a register of electors should contain such information and that it is necessary to its completeness. We invite our readers to send us instances where the practice indicated is, or has been, in force, and in due course we hope that some representations will be made through the proper quarters to the Home Office upon the matter.

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*(Concluded from opposite page).*

Football is likely to interfere with the polling on November 1st. Forewarned is forearmed. In many cases, unless votes are cast while on the way to the football match or to the excursion they will not be cast at all.

It should equally be remembered that even the non-footballer will be doing Saturday evening shopping on polling day. All the more need for early visits by fetchers-up on this occasion.



## Polling Day Hints for the Municipal Elections

Above all see that the army is in the field on polling day. Names of those who will attend at the Committee Rooms, for work there and fetching-up, should be secured several days ahead, and each Committee Room should have a list of workers who have promised to report thereat.

Open Committee Rooms at 7.45 a.m., sharp, making contact immediately with the Polling Booth. It is good to have an adult representative at the Booth immediately it opens.

Before arranging the inside of the Committee Room secure a good announcement of the Committee Room *outside*, leaving the embellishments till later.

Committee Room equipment should consist of the appropriate sections of the register marked with the results of canvass (or wall-boards so marked if possible) and, where a single card canvass has been made the stocks of cards, together with the necessary stationery and literature.

Warnings should be placarded on the wall against Corrupt and Illegal Practices, and the clerk in charge should use every influence to prevent same.

The candidate should visit the Polling Booths as early as practicable after opening. The candidate should be on evidence during the whole of the day, for this, generally, has a distinctly heartening effect on the workers, and it secures extra votes.

Early calls on promised voters are essential, and no promised vote should be lost sight of during the day until the Committee Room clerk is absolutely satisfied that the vote is polled. This may entail several calls—even possibly an unwanted one or two.

If fetching up strength allows no voter should be struck off as having voted merely because the number comes in from a runner at the polling booth. Mistakes are very frequent and the report of the fetcher-up that a person has voted is more conclusive than the receipt of his number from the runner.

This double check may be operated by entering a tick against the numbers when a runner has reported and striking out the name entirely when confirmation is received.

Notwithstanding all efforts it will not be unusual for a Committee Room clerk to find himself entirely without workers. In such circumstances, close the room, put a notice on the door saying "Back at — o'clock,"—and hunt up supporters in the immediate neighbourhood asking for help. Be back at the time stated. If necessary do this again and again till fetchers-up are secured.

Apathy amongst the electors is a grievous trouble. Election excitement should have been stimulated beforehand. But in suitable areas a speaker or two can still do good work on polling day by holding brief meetings in the streets.

If a car or cars are available don't misuse by sending for isolated voters. Put reliable fetchers-up in charge and send them to collect voters from concentrated spots. Decorate the cars.

Party colours are a great election aid. Encourage the wearing of them. But it is an offence to give colours away.

An incomplete canvass is unfortunately a common occurrence, but by a little foresight in the Committee Room registers can be marked with the names of members and known supporters, and especially "Daily Herald" readers. These should all be visited and treated as promised votes.

In view of the unscrupulous attacks on the present Government it would be well worth while this year to supply all Committee Rooms with the Labour Party's leaflet on the Labour Government's record. Fetchers-up should take supplies with them.

If taxi-cabs or prohibited vehicles are being used by the other side, report immediately to the Central Committee Room, or if necessary to the police. A responsible officer should warn the opposing side should any offence be discovered.

(Concluded on opposite page).

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# Housing Surveys and Slum Clearance Co-operation by Local Labour Party Secretaries

By Alderman R. COPPOCK, J.P., L.C.C. (*General Secretary of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives*).

As every Secretary and Agent will be aware, the Housing No. 2 Bill, colloquially referred to as the "Slum Clearance Bill," became an Act of Parliament at the close of the last Session. If only we can get our people interested in this measure, and down to interesting but important work in connection with it, it would soon be shewn that this Act is one of the finest pieces of legislation any Government has enacted for many years. It has often been said that Parliament *legislates* but that the Local Authorities *administrate*. It has as often been said that if all the Acts of Parliament on the Statute Book were taken advantage of, conditions of the people would be much brighter. Both statements are equally true, and the new Act proves them to the hilt. **THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATING THIS ACT RESTS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES. IF LOCAL AUTHORITIES USE THE POWERS WHICH THIS ACT CONFERS UPON THEM BRITAIN'S SLUM PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED IN TEN YEARS!** But will Local Authorities take advantage of the Act—and ACT? Some will, but the majority will **not UNLESS PUBLIC OPINION COMPELS THEM.**

To this end, the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives has initiated a Campaign for Housing Surveys and Slum Clearances. All our branches throughout the country have been circulated with literature and instructions as to what to do. By now, every one of them should have interviewed or written every person in their locality who, irrespective of class, creed, politics or religion, is known to be interested in social questions of which housing, undoubtedly, is the most important. Every Labour Party Secretary and Agent should therefore already have received a visit or communication from our local secretary. If they haven't perhaps they would enquire the reason by dropping a line to our local representative. We are meeting the expenses of hire of halls for local conferences called to discuss the question of housing and to set up a Local Housing Survey



ALD. R. COPPOCK, J.P., L.C.C.

Council, and are prepared to print, free of charge, circulars, etc., calling such conferences. The Local Housing Survey Council would set to work and collect authentic information as to local housing conditions, noting bad sanitation, over-crowding, rotten floors, window frames, etc., leaking roofs, and other conditions which are a disgrace to humanity. Then a Local Meeting would be called, the expenses of which we could consider bearing, at which these shocking conditions would be revealed. Such a meeting, and sustained efforts after the meeting, would almost certainly so rouse local Public Opinion that the Local Authority would be compelled, by sheer moral force, to commence work under the new Act.

The results would be far-reaching. The first would be the creation of employment for many of the 100,000 building trade workers at present unemployed and ready to lay their skilled hands to the great human task of pro-

perly housing the people. The demand for materials which would be needed would, in the second place, create work for another 150,000 to 200,000 workers in other trades and industries, at present unemployed. Their wages, when spent, would create a demand for other goods and consequently create work for further workers at present unemployed. Above all, we should be providing decent homes for the people, reducing sickness and disease, and generally adding to the nation's prosperity.

No one can do more to aid our campaign than can a local secretary and/or agent in his particular locality. Secretaries and agents must, of necessity, know their districts well, and the conditions under which the people live. If, therefore, they can do anything which will help to reduce, in the smallest degree, the tragic army of unemployed; will help to make housing conditions in their locality a little better even than they are, they will not only have performed a great social service but will have enhanced their reputation and that of the Government and perchance pave the way to future victories for Labour when the Municipal and General Elections next take place. Set to work at once! Help to get a local conference organised; a Local Housing Survey Council established and **WORKING!** The rest will follow. See our Local Secretary and get from him any further information, and if he cannot assist, you write to the Housing Survey Department, National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, Federal House, Cedars Road, Clapham, London, S.W.4. If you have any suggestions to make we shall be glad to have them.

### POT POURRI.

We regret that an error crept in last month when giving the election figures for the Chester-le-Street Division. The majority was 20,641, not 6,334, as stated, the latter figure being the total vote of the Tory candidate. Thus in an election in which Labour returned its accounts within seventy-two hours our candidate polled 54.9 of the total per cent. of the electorate.

The Leicester Labour Party has this month entered into a new home. Fine premises have been secured at 29, New Walk, Leicester, and the Party is to be congratulated, not only on the change but on the cheerfulness and tasteful furnishing of the new premises, as well as upon their convenience and suitability. There is a closer link in Leices-

tershire between the principal town and the County constituencies than exists in any similar county in the country, except perhaps, Durham, and it is not surprising therefore, to find that some of the County Divisions are also making these premises their headquarters. Our congratulations to all concerned, and particularly to Mr. W. Howard, M.A., whose twelve years of service in Leicester have left an indelible mark on Labour's progress in that city.

The "Labour Woman" for October starts a new series in livelier and more attractive style. An interesting feature now is the views of readers on what the paper should contain, and, of course, the children continue to have a page of their own. The new appearance of the "Labour Woman" is a decided improvement. It is edited by Dr. Marion Phillips, M.P., and published by the Labour Party. Do all Parties and Sections push the woman's paper as they ought to do, and seek to raise its circulation?

It will interest our readers to know that the contributions from the Party's big membership in Greenwich are collected almost wholly on Sunday mornings. There are nearly three thousand members. Some of our readers may care to send to Mr. A. Glyn Evans, the General Secretary and Agent, of 32, Woolwich Road, Greenwich, for samples of the Football Fixture Card, which, by-the-way, is almost a local red book as well. We understand that the cost of four thousand cards was £7 but £5 2s. was received in advertisements. The Fixture Card is very popular among the members.

The Southampton Labour Party, who are fighting fourteen out of the seventeen wards this year are at the same time making a big bid for membership. Thirty thousand membership appeals are being sent out with the election addresses, and election canvassers will seek to collect application forms while visiting the electors. We shall be interested to learn how this effort progresses. The Secretary and Agent is Mr. A. Rose, of 54, Henstead Road, Southampton.

The Clay Cross Divisional Labour Party have recently commenced the issue of a monthly Bulletin. The matter is duplicated and occupies roughly about eight foolscap pages. We are intrigued by the fact that the contents consist principally of tabulated matter and tabloid facts, the assimilation of which is ordinarily confined to the deeper



thinkers in our Movement. The selection so far, has been good, and there has been much meaty matter for our supporters in the Division to digest and pass on to others as propaganda.

Many of our readers consider the issue of calendars at this time of the year, and we would advise them to send to the Reader Printing Co., whose advertisement appears in this issue, for samples. Some extremely tasteful calendars are issued by this firm, and not only are Party calendars an acceptable decoration in the home, but they are a means by which a welcome sum of money can be raised. Sixpence, one shilling, two shillings and sixpence—even five shillings will be gladly paid by some supporters for really artistic calendars, and at each price there is an ample margin of profit to be made.

At the gathering of the Congregational Union held at Southend this month, a discussion took place on novelties and adventures in services. Illustrating a point, a Liverpool pastor stated that after issuing 10,000 invitation cards to his P.S.A he only secured an attendance of forty-one.

Though Labour organisers rarely experience such terrific failure it is interesting to note the remedy applied. A change of method was decided upon and a charge of half-a-crown was made for the session. Result: An enrolment of 280 persons on the first day, and now to quote the parson, "people who can afford to spend money on cinemas or other luxuries are going to pay or stay out."

This seems rather a reflection on Biblical example. Would the rich man have secured a more desirable attendance at his feast, if, instead of scouring the highways and hedges for diners, he had charged them, say, five bob a head?

But seriously, it is frequently found that free meetings are more poorly attended than those where a charge is made. And even low charges are often less successful than substantial ones. This is a point organisers and secretaries must not overlook. Successful organisation is largely dependent upon an understanding of human nature — and even its illogicality can be made to pay!

#### HELD OVER.

Our article on Local Labour Party Accounts is unavoidably held over this month.

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## PARTY MEMBERS

### Getting Them and Keeping Them.

By Councillor H. EASTWOOD, *Labour Agent, Bolton.*

I have been asked to express a few thoughts on organisation. I respond because I feel it is good that one's experience and views should be considered by others in the hope of passing on anything which may prove useful. Another reason is that while one's own ideas of organisation may be useful, there are the ideas of other people who are equally so. And the "Labour Organiser" is the best medium I know which provides an adequate opportunity of an exchange of ideas upon the general subject of organisation.

True it is to say that what is suitable for a town may not be suitable for a rural district. Also it is true that many methods have to be varied in a double-membered constituency as against the single-membered constituency. But some general principles are common to all. The problem of organisation mainly is confined to two primary matters; the securing of members and the retaining of members. All other problems are merely associated matters. Fighting elections is no use without members. Propaganda is better with members to help. And general Ward organisation is contingent upon membership.

So we have first to get our members. "And how," as the Americans say. Propaganda first. Yes. But I offer the thought that the old type of meeting in the "City Square," or park, or recreation ground is largely out of date. I urge the need for getting out into the Wards in each case. If you have a member or candidate, a Ward meeting or two is infinitely more productive of good than a "Mass Meeting" in some central hall. Get out to the people: do not any longer expect the people to come to you. During the summer, and also during election periods, get out into the streets. With a chairman and two speakers you can run several short open-air meetings each evening, held right at the doors of the people. This is the most effective propaganda you can have. Follow this up with a distribution of suitable literature and membership forms and then begin your appeal for membership. It works.

Maybe you have a club or two, or seven or more in your area. Give the Secretary a list of persons who have appeared to you to "get them a job" or

get them "back on the 'dole'" or who wanted a pension. A list too of those for whom you secured votes at the last Revision Court. Get an organised visitation of all such potential members and add to this work a list, if available, of those names and addresses of trade unionists in the district securable from sympathetic Trade Union Secretaries. Get a member of the co-operative movement to mark out a list of known co-operative members from the Ward voting list and give them a call with special leaflets. If you have young members who are keen on tennis and bowls and dancing, and (maybe) midget golf, visit the young folk of the district and talk about a tennis club of your own. You will certainly get some members, and you MAY get the tennis club.

And, having got your members, start all over again to get more.

Having got members, and more members, how can they be retained. First of all, a good agent keeps a quarterly record of membership, present and previous, lapsed members and new members secured from each Ward, and pays special attention accordingly. If a Ward has rooms or merely a club (sorry) to keep your members you must keep them interested. First of all see that a regular visit is paid on an organised scale to other Wards, and secure mutual visits in return. For your men members, there is always whist and billiards, and dominoes, and out-door games. But try a lecture now and again. Choose an "off" night when members have no money and they come to spend a cheap and pleasant evening. Only, for the good Lord's sake, get lecturers who will deal with subjects off the beaten track. Try, for a change, selecting a SUBJECT, and then get the lecturer to fit the subject. It makes a real difference. If you want suggested subjects, drop me a line and I will send a list of 20.

And for your women folk. Drop bazaars for awhile and run special functions. Especially those where the MEN wash up the dishes. These are always a success in point of numbers because the women come out of curiosity at the unusual character of the event. And get a speaker some afternoon instead of evening, for women only or largely. And try and talk about some



subject in which women are interested apart from politics for a change. They get enough at other general meetings for men and women. Run a cheap tea with it, so that the women can have a chat after the brief address. Some of them will leave their husband's tea on the table at home, and there is thus a good excuse for leaving him to himself, just an odd time. And a really good husband will not mind in the least if he thinks the lecture has been worth it.

And, for a change, which will be interesting to all concerned, and a helpful one to others beside your members, try the suggestion of our good friend Mrs. M. Anderson, the North West Divisional Organiser. Run a special social some time, and invite PARTICULARLY women with children of school age. Let them have a run round the whole place for an hour. Then, when they are a little tired from their own play and noise (and maybe others too) get somebody who really knows how to interest children to tell them fairy stories with a movement moral. The children of "older years" will always listen in. Then comes the grand finale. Ask the kiddies to get members for the "Aunt Kitsie" Club for our own "Daily Herald." Collect coupons and get reader-members of similar age and form "Dens" and the rest. It can be done. Have a shot and you will be surprised. And if you are unable to find a story of interest to the kiddies as an introduction to the movement, well, maybe sometime I will write one or two for the Editor unless he grows up in the meantime.

Two things to remember. Members of clubs are in danger of stressing the social side too much. Make sure that the social side appeals to women and children as well as to the men. Men are not the only social persons, but club committees seem to think so. The other point to remember is that where you have no Ward organisation or rooms or club, but merely a loose aggregation of members attached by subscription to the centre, social contact occasionally is really necessary. And the method of such contact should be elastic and not rigid. No "regular monthly meetings" only, but a variation of all conceived notions. The element of surprise or unusualness is a valuable asset in modern organising. So, dear reader, "Get 'em and keep 'em." And if the Agent to the adjoining constituency says he can't, offer to change jobs with him for a month.

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#### THE LABOUR AGENTS' ASSOC

*Those seated (second row) are, reading from left to right: F. Constant, Chairman, Asst. National Agent; H. Drinkwater, General Secretary; S. Hague, J.P., President; G. Morris, Vice-Chairman;*

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LABOUR REGISTRATION AND ELECTION AGENTS.

The annual conference of the National Association of Labour Registration and Election Agents was held at Llandudno on 5th inst., and was preceded on the Saturday by a highly successful reception to members held at the Richmond Private Hotel.

The latter function took the form of a musical evening, and a really good programme was provided entirely by the members and guests. Those contributing were the Rt. Hon. F. O. Roberts, M.P., Miss Miller, of London, Mrs. Anderson Fenn, Councillor S. Hague, J.P., Councillor H. Eastwood, R. Montford, J.P., A. Guest, R. Wallis, C. Dunscombe, A. Glyn Evans, A. Thomas and others. Not the least diverting item was an original set of verses by the General Secretary entitled "The Looking-Glass; or the Making of a Labour Agent." During the evening Mr. R. J.

Windle, the Assistant National Agent, and formerly Chairman of the Association, was made the recipient of a handsome gold watch as a token of appreciation and esteem, and for Mrs. Windle, who was unavoidably absent, an ostrich skin hand-bag was provided. Later in the evening short speeches were made by the President, S. Hague, J.P. Mr. G. R. Shepherd, National Agent, and Mr. J. Middleton, Assistant Secretary (The Labour Party).

At the all-day sitting of the Annual Conference a long agenda was gone through and much constructive thought given to the problems that interest organisers. A revision of rules presented by the E.C. at the instruction of the last conference was deferred for a year for the consideration of members.

Of general interest to our readers was an explanation by Mr. H. Croft, of the Examination Scheme, and the principles on which marking of papers is made, also a statement on behalf of the Exe-





GROUP AT LLANDUDNO, 1930

A. Guest, E.C.; W. B. Lewcock, E.C.; R. T. Windle, Past  
A. Townley, Chairman; G. R. Shepherd, National Agent, First  
J. H. Cardwell, E.C.; D. Dawson, E.C., and W. Withey, E.C.

cutive that they would press the Labour Party to restrict future appointments of agents to experienced men or to those who were trainees under the scheme, pending, of course, the full operation of certificates. A further interesting item was an indication that the agents have in mind the needs of different constituencies, and may present to the Party during the coming year a proposal having a marked bearing on this subject.

The Conference was ably presided over by Mrs. A. Townley (of Bristol), who was elected to the chair last year, in which matter of appointing a woman the agents' example was followed by the Labour Party! The election of national officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: — President, Councillor S. Hague, J.P.; Chairman, Mrs. A. Townley; Vice-Chairman, Mr. G. Morris; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. H. Drinkwater; Auditors, Messrs. R. Montford, J.P. and H. St. Dunstan White.

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# FREE USE OF SCHOOLROOMS FOR DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDATES.

Everybody is of course aware of the provision in the Representation of the People Act, 1918, granting under certain conditions the free use of elementary schools to Parliamentary candidates. Probably not so many of our readers are, however, aware of a provision in the Local Government Act, 1894, which apparently granted a similar concession to Rural District Council and Parish Council candidates, but which concession was promptly scotched by the then Tory Law Officers of the Crown.

Section 4 of the Local Government Act, 1894, is to a layman's mind pretty conclusive when it says that the parochial electors and the Parish Council shall be entitled to use free of charge at all reasonable times and after reasonable notice for the purpose of the candidature of any person for the District Council or Parish Council any suitable room in the schoolhouse (except private dwelling house) of any public elementary school receiving a grant out of moneys provided by Parliament, and any suitable room the expense of maintaining which is payable out of any local rate.

Perhaps our readers will understand the Section better if we quote it in full.

"In any rural parish in which there is no suitable public room vested in the parish council or in the chairman of a parish meeting and the overseers which can be used free of charge for the purposes in this section mentioned, the parochial electors and the parish council shall be entitled to use, free of charge, at all reasonable times, and after reasonable notice, for the purpose of—

(a) the parish meeting or any meeting of the parish council; or

(b) any inquiry for parochial purposes by the Local Government Board or any other Government Department or local authority; or

(c) holding meetings convened by the chairman of the parish meeting or by the parish council, or if as to allotments in the manner prescribed by the Allotments Act, 1890, or otherwise as the Local Government Board may by rule prescribe, to discuss any question relating to allotments, under the Allotments

Acts, 1887 and 1890, or under this Act; or

(d) the candidature of any person for the district council or the parish council; or

(e) any committee or officer appointed, either by the parish meeting or council or by a county or district council, to administer public funds within or for the purposes of the parish any suitable room in the schoolhouse of any public elementary school receiving a grant out of moneys provided by Parliament, and any suitable room the expense of maintaining which is payable out of any local rate.

Provided that this enactment shall not authorise the use of any room used as part of a private dwelling-house, nor authorise any interference with the school hours of an elementary day or evening school, nor in the case of a room used for the administration of justice or police, with the hours during which it is used for these purposes."

In order to clear the minds of our readers that there is any catch in the use of the term any suitable room in the "schoolhouse" of any public school, this has been understood to mean any suitable room in the building excluding of course the usage mentioned in the proviso.

Obviously the provision as it would appear to effect candidates, would be of immense value to poor candidates, especially to Labour candidates. It will be seen that the wording differs materially from the 1918 enactment relating to Parliamentary elections, but it nevertheless would appear that the legislature intended that parochial electors should have the right to use rural schoolrooms, etc., for the purpose of furthering the candidatures of particular candidates.

Early in the operation of the Act, however, a remarkable circular was issued by the Education Department (which incidentally cleared up the point above mentioned regarding the term "schoolhouse" and made it clear that the school proper was intended). The salient paragraph of this circular is as follows:—

(c) Use of Schoolroom for Candidature Purposes.

As regards the use of a room under section 4 (1) (d) for the candidature or any person for the district council



or the parish council the Act provides that the room can be used by—

- (a) The parish council;
- (b) The parochial electors.

With regard to such use by the parochial electors the Department is advised by the law officers of the Crown that the notice to be given to the persons having control over the room should proceed from the parochial electors and not from the candidate, and that the right to use the room is not a right of the candidate, but a right of the electors to the council. The law officers further consider that the expression "parochial electors" means, not any section or majority of such electors, but the body as a whole, that is to say, acting as a parish meeting, and that the only way for the parochial electors to demand the use of the room is by notice given pursuant to a resolution at a parish meeting."

We respectfully submit that if ever there was an occasion where the intention of the legislature was defeated by lawyers' interpretations then this is one. We contend that as the law stands any body of parochial electors should be permitted the use of the specified meeting place for the purpose of furthering the candidature of any candidate. This, at any rate, is the commonsense interpretation to be placed upon the statute.

The opinion given by the law officers has never, we believe, been challenged in the Courts. It does not rest therefore on Judges' decisions, and has not the force of law; it might conceivably be challenged by legal process. We would point out that the decision is thirty-six years old, the circular mentioned having been issued on the 30th November, 1894. Our readers are not likely to have any more respect for the Tory lawyers of that period than we have, when interpreting a statute in the interests of democracy.

We are interested to know whether the present law officers of the Crown would be likely to take a more liberal view of the matter, and steps are being taken by the "Labour Organiser" to induce the Board of Education to refer this matter once again to its legal advisers. A solitary legal opinion of such venerable age ought not to stand in the light of the measure of justice, which a fair interpretation of the Section would give to candidates in all parts of the country.

## NATIONAL WORKERS' SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

By GEORGE H. ELVIN, General Secretary

I am extremely grateful to the Editor of "The Labour Organiser" for his offer to place space at my disposal for the next few months in order to keep his readers in touch with the progress of The National Workers' Sports Association, its future plans and the part it is playing, and hopes to play, in the Labour home and international movements.

The Association was inaugurated on July 26th last when delegates from Labour Parties, Trades Councils and Workers' Sports Organisations throughout the country attended a conference at Transport House and unanimously decided to go ahead with the organisation of Workers' Sports on a national basis. Both the Labour Party Executive Committee and T.U.C. General Council were represented, and we were assured of their full help and co-operation.

Since that historic conference many bodies likely to be interested have been communicated with and the replies already received show that there is no reason at all why this country should not organise as successful and enthusiastic Workers' Sports Movement as our Continental Comrades have done. The Prime Minister is giving his support and has promised to become the first President of the Association, while both the Chairmen of the Labour Party and T.U.C. General Council are Vice-Presidents, together with P. Noel Baker, M.P., and other keen and well-known Labour sportsmen. The current Labour Party Report refers to our inauguration, in addition to printing our Constitution in full as an Appendix, to which I should like to draw the attention of anybody who has not yet seen a copy.

We are making plans well ahead for the future and hope to organise National Competitions in several different sports within the next twelve months or so in addition to holding a National Workers' Sports Day, for which the Crystal Palace has already been booked for June 20th, 1931, and entering a team for the Second Workers' Olympiad to be held in Vienna in July next. With reference to these two latter events I hope to be able to say much more in next month's issue.

In the meantime we are concentrating upon organising and building up a large

(Continued on page 191).



## QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

### Labour Groups.

*Question.* Can you please tell me whether anything has been done yet by the Party with regard to Standing Orders for Local Labour Parties? I saw a note in the "Labour Organiser" some time ago saying that the Labour Party were drafting some Standing Orders, but I have seen nothing of them yet.

*Answer.* The note which our correspondent refers to had no relation to Standing Orders for Local Labour Parties, and at present each Local Labour Party will frame its own Standing Orders. Our paragraph referred to Standing Orders for Labour groups on public bodies, and really, although the Labour Party proposals are entitled "Draft Standing Orders for Labour Groups on Local Authorities outside the Administrative County of London," they actually amount to a constitution for same. A report was given to the Llandudno Conference on this matter, and on page 125 of the recently circulated Executive Report will be found the provisions themselves. We regret that there is no room in this issue to reprint same, and there is little need because they will shortly be available to every member of the Party. The Executive Report on this matter was as follows:—

"The growth of Labour representation upon Local Government Authorities has raised a number of problems during the past few years in the matter of conducting Party business within Labour Groups and in the relationship existing between the Groups and their respective Constituency Parties.

"To meet serious difficulties, the National Executive Committee has had to appoint representatives from time to time to consult with those concerned in specific instances, and the experience thus gained at last compelled it to devise an instrument to govern procedure, discipline and policy.

"A Sub-Committee, consisting of Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., Mr. Herbert Morrison, M.P., and Mr. Joseph Compton, M.P., was appointed to go into the whole question, with the active assistance of the Assistant Secretary and the National Agent. . . .

"The Sub-Committee has since submitted a final draft to the National Executive Committee. This has been endorsed, and is included in this Report as Appendix VIII. — for general approval by the Annual Conference. If this is given, the National Executive Committee proposes to ask Parties to put the Standing Orders into operation in the same way as the Constituency Rules approved at Brighton. That is to say, if Constituency Parties desire to introduce amendments, such amendments must be submitted to the National Executive Committee for endorsement before taking effect."

### A Councillor's Contract.

*Question.* I shall be glad if you can give me the position with regard to the disqualification of a Borough Councillor.

The case I have in mind is one in which a member of the council is a partner in a firm registered as a company, but made up of two partners only, each having an equal share in the profits of the firm. This firm has secured a contract for the building of a sub-station for the Electricity Committee, and it would appear to me that the councillor is disqualified under Section 46, L.G. Act, 1894, clause (3).

*Answer.* From a later letter from our correspondent we gather that the firm in question is actually a Joint-Stock Company. The question is governed by Section 12 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, but this section has given rise to endless litigation, and it is not always safe to venture an opinion on a particular case.

It is laid down that a person shall be



disqualified for being a councillor if and while he has directly or indirectly by himself or his partner any share or interest in any contract or employment with, by or on behalf of the Council. But it is also laid down that a person shall not be so disqualified or be deemed to have any share or interest in such contract or employment by reason only of his having any share in any company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1862.

According to our correspondent the Company is registered under a later Act, though we think it will be found that that is immaterial as regards a shareholder, inasmuch as the Companies' Acts will be read as one. We are of opinion that as a shareholder the councillor in question will not be disqualified.

From the further facts disclosed, it would appear however, that this councillor is a very active member of the firm, and, in fact, the firm is a private company, and consists of the councillor and one other. It appears to us, therefore, that the interest in the contract exceeds that for which protection is given, and though we are unable to point at this moment to any decision supporting this point of view, it would seem reasonably clear that the councillor is disqualified.

Whether disqualified or no this person is prohibited from voting on any matter before the Council in which his Company is interested, and if our point of view is correct (that disqualification exists) he is subject to heavy penalty for now acting.

#### **Casual Vacancy District Council.**

*Question.* Will you please oblige me with information concerning a casual vacancy arising on an Urban District Council. When such vacancy occurs through death or resignation what is the proper legal procedure to follow in order to have the vacancy filled?

*Answer.* The Local Government Act, 1894, which set up Urban and District Councils applies in Section 48 the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, to the election of councillors and to the acceptance of office, resignation, re-eligibility and the filling of casual vacancies subject to adaptations, alterations and exceptions made by Rules framed under the L.G. Act.

The rules framed under the Act for Urban District Councillors are those dated 1st January, 1898, amended in slight particulars by the Local Elections Alterations of Rules Order, 1925.

By these rules when a casual vacancy occurs in the office of an Urban District Councillor the election is to be held within one month after notice in writing of the vacancy has been given to the Chairman of the U.D.C. or to the clerk by two *Councillors*. Our correspondent should note the difference here between the procedure for a District Council and that for a Municipal Council. In the case of a Municipal Council two electors may give the notice and the election is started within fourteen days.

The clerk fixes the day of the election, but he must do so in accordance with the table which we printed on page 238 (second column) of the "Labour Organiser" for December, 1929.

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*(Concluded from page 189).*

national body which will eventually have a divisional association in every county upon the lines of other national sports associations. To achieve this end as speedily as possible, we want the co-operation of every Local Labour Party Secretary and Organiser throughout the country. We want all your individual members and all the existing Workers' Sports Club, of which there are a surprisingly large number, to be advised of our inauguration, fully acquainted with our objects and aims and urged to affiliate to us either as an organisation or individually, whichever the case may be. This is where you can help us, and we feel sure will not fail to do so.

What we would like is either for you to set aside one of your branch meetings for the discussion of the Movement's relationship to sport with particular reference to our Association, or better still, organise a conference in your particular area when we will be pleased to send down national speakers. Invite to that conference representatives of all Labour Parties, Trades Councils, Leagues of Youth and Workers' Sports Organisations, if such already exist, within easy travelling distance of yourselves. Supplement the national speakers with local ones, get your Member of Parliament interested, particularly if he is a Labour Member, and try to form the nucleus of a strong local association. Once we have got these associations formed it will be a much easier task for us to go ahead and realise our fullest ambitions, but only by hard spade work can this be done, and we therefore confidently look forward to your helping us.

### PANELS OF L. G. CANDIDATES: A SUITABLE FORM.

Readers interested in the promotion of Local Government candidates will be interested in the form of nomination printed below, which is used by the Birmingham Borough Labour Party in the City of Birmingham when inviting nominations for the panel of candidates. The form with a suitable circular is

sent out to organisations affiliated to the Borough Party, and to Ward Committees and Individual Members' Sections. The procedure for nomination and selection is of course provided for by Rule. We are of the opinion that the Birmingham Borough Labour Party has made an unqualified success of this matter, and the form is a very useful one to be copied elsewhere.

Prescribed form for Nominations, to be returned to the Secretary of the Borough Labour Party not later than .....

### BIRMINGHAM BOROUGH LABOUR PARTY. PANEL OF MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES.

To be completed by the Nominating Organisation.

SURNAME.	CHRISTIAN NAME(S) (in full).	ADDRESS.	OCCUPATION.

ORGANISATION .....

BRANCH .....

Signed ..... Secretary.

Address .....

Any financial aid available for the Candidate by a Nominating Organisation or by a nominating person, to be stated here.

To be completed by the person nominated.

- Are you a member (if eligible) of a recognised Trade Union catering for the industry in which you are employed?
- If so, please give name of Organisation and Branch.
- Are you a member of any other Organisation declared by the National Conference of the Labour Party to be ineligible for affiliation to the Labour Party.
- If elected as a Councillor—
  - Could you give the time necessary to the Council work?
  - Do you agree to accept the "Whip" of the Labour Party Group on the Council?

Please answer yes or no to each of the questions.

.....

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.....

I accept nomination as above, and if elected finally, will accept the stipulation relating to candidatures as set out in the Labour Party Constitution and Rules.

Signed .....



# THE LABOUR PARTY

# League of Youth

## Monthly Bulletin

EDITOR :

W. ARTHUR PEACOCK.

No. 4 (NEW SERIES)

OCTOBER, 1930

## THINGS WE HEAR

*Competition; A Pageant of Youth; Winter Programmes;  
Federation Constitutions; and Bulletin Sales.*

THERE are quite a number of important matters about which we are anxious to talk to secretaries and members of the League of Youth. The first of these is the Literary Competition. The full announcement regarding it appeared last month and we hope that branches have discussed it and taken action to ensure that their members have the essential particulars. As this is our first competition we are keen to ensure that it is successful, and in particular we are anxious that the members of the National Executive who are to judge them shall gain a good impression regarding the abilities of our members.

The competitions are of quite a simple character. Here are the chief points. Young people between the ages of 14 and 17 are asked to send in essays of not more than 600 words on the topic of "Why I am a member of the Labour Party League of Youth." Older members between the ages of 17 and 25 are invited to send in essays dealing with the "Life of any Labour Member."

The competition for younger members is for judging purposes classified as Class A, and that for older members as Class B. It is requested that envelopes containing entries be marked with the respective letter.

Other points to be borne in mind are that:—

1. An entrance fee of 3d. must be enclosed with each entry.
2. All entries must be sent to the Labour Party League of Youth Competition, Labour Party, Transport House South, Smith Square, London, S.W.1., not later than November 22nd.

The judges of the competition will be

Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., and Mr. F. O. Roberts, M.P. It is hoped that their task will be complete in time for an announcement to be made in the December issue of this journal. The prizes will be in books and will be presented at the annual conference which takes place at Birmingham early in January next.

### Have You a Banner?

Mention of Birmingham reminds me that this is the place suggested for the proposed Pageant of Youth about which a circular has been sent to all League secretaries. The proposal is that a grand rally and demonstration shall be held in Birmingham on a Saturday afternoon in June next year to be followed by an evening social gathering. The rally would take the form of a procession and demonstration. There would be tableaux and decorated cars, leagues would be asked to bring banners and members invited to come attired in special dress. Before proceeding with the preliminary the Committee feels it ought to know what support it may expect from the branches. It is asked, therefore, that special meetings be held to discuss the proposal so that a reply to the circular may be sent Mr. Windle with the minimum of delay.

For the benefit of those who have not seen the circular we give below the four questions about which information is sought.

1. The approximate number of members that could be expected from your district.
2. Whether you have or would have by the time, secured a banner which you could bring.
3. Whether members would undertake to appear in a tableau or to appear

*in a procession in any particular dress.*

4. *Whether it would be possible to make a small donation towards the cost and expenses that such a gathering would incur.*

Will members see that their branches discuss the idea at once. The winter months are before us and such a pageant as this would provide branches with plenty of work that would help to maintain general interest in the League. Such a spectacular gathering as the suggested pageant should arouse considerable enthusiasm for the League and should gain for it much helpful publicity. Discuss the proposal now. Think out carefully what you can do. Start saving for the trip. Set about that banner. And lastly, be sure that the circular is answered. The National Advisory Committee cannot go ahead until it knows your views.

#### **Prepare a Programme.**

We have said that this proposal for a spectacular pageant would provide members with useful work in the winter months. This is true, but it is important also that branch committees should prepare a winter syllabus that will cover all branches of activities that Leagues should sponsor. Study circles and lectures should be organised. Dances and socials should be held. Aid should be given the adult party in any propaganda or electoral work in which it is engaged. A syllabus setting forth the activities for a month or for several months not only is a reminder to members of what is happening but is something to show the prospective member and to give him an idea of the benefits that accrue from League membership.

#### **Federation Rules.**

Mr. Maurice Hackett suggested in the last Bulletin that there should be greater co-operation between branches, and that more advisory committees should be formed. This is a proposal that will be readily endorsed by all Leagues. Advisory committees are rendering very fine service wherever they are at work, and their development in areas where a number of Leagues exist should be encouraged. It is felt, however, that the time has arrived when a model constitution for all such bodies should be prepared and the Advisory Committee is anxious to proceed with this task. To do this it needs copies of the rules of all existing

Advisory Committees and Federations and those who have not favoured Mr. Windle with a copy of their constitutions and standing orders are requested to do so in order that such may receive the consideration of the Advisory Committee.

#### **Badges and Pamphlets.**

Interesting information relative to the League was given in the annual report of the Labour Party presented to the Llandudno conference. There are now 335 branches. The League pamphlet "Youth's Great Opportunity," has met with encouraging response. As many as 4,000 badges have been sold. There are still quite a number of Leagues who have not ordered these, and such are reminded that they are available at the rate of 10s. per dozen. Sell badges and make profits for your funds.

In this connection we would emphasise yet again that the Bulletin ought to be in the hands of every member of the League. Every branch should take copies. They should be handed to all members and to other young people likely to join, since every issue provides an indication of the work that the League is doing, and is full of information likely to interest young socialists. Should there be any members wishing to express their opinion upon any matters appertaining to the work of the League such are reminded that letters and brief articles will always be welcomed and should be addressed to the Editor, The League of Youth Bulletin, Transport House South, Smith Square, S.W.1.

## **League News**

**Bethnal Green** secured an attendance of 80 at its first meeting. Apart from the committee the whole of those present were new members. At the second meeting a talk on the German tour of the Labour Football Team was given by Mr. Maurice Bunyan. It was exceedingly interesting, and members were happy that such a good lecture had been secured. Believing that politicians should play as well as preach, the branch arranged a ramble on September 14th, and although the Clerk of the Weather was not too comradely, quite a jolly day was spent. On this occasion the members were joined by two comrades from the Hackney League as well as members of the senior party.

**Waldstone** continues its good and useful work and sends an encouraging

*(Concluded on opposite page).*



## Books to Buy

By MALCOLM SANDERSON.

**A** FRIEND has written me asking if I can suggest some good cheap books which could be bought for his branch library. In making a few notes for him I would point out that the series mentioned deal chiefly with general literature. Books on political matters were the subject of an article in an earlier issue of the Bulletin.

Now the first thing to be said about cheap books is that despite all the controversy in the press to-day there are plenty of good books obtainable at very low prices. They are not new books, it is true, but the majority of them are reprints of works by writers of established reputation.

A typical series is "The Thinker's Library" which Watts and Co. publish. For one shilling you can have copies of Darwin's *Origin of Species*, for another shilling there is his autobiography, while for this same sum H. G. Wells' "First and Last Things" and "Short History of the World" are available. Each of these books is worth the attention of young men and women who belong to the League of Youth.

At two shillings "Everyman Library" offers a selection of books than cannot be equalled. There are over 800 in the list and the reader who cannot make a selection to suit his taste will be strange indeed. Just look at the newest volumes which have just reached me. There is a book for youngsters "Rattlin' the Reefer," which, to use a colloquialism of youth, is a "rattlin'" good book. It tells the early life story of Edward Howard, his adventures at school and in the navy, and provides interesting side-light on life in other days.

### Poetry and Romance.

Then there is Fielding's *Amelia*, George Eliot's *Middlemarch* and Conversations with Goethe.

These additions are by no means an indication of the general contents of this series. "Everyman" covers a field of biography, belles lettres, poetry and travel, as well as fiction. To give a list of books in it that you should read would be to fill too many columns of this journal. Send to Dent's, at Aldine House, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C.2., and ask for their Everyman Library list.

If you like the books of H. G. Wells you will find that they are available in an attractive series for which Benn's are

responsible, while from Heinemann you can secure any of the novels of Galsworthy. The early Wells you are sure to enjoy, and if you have yet to make acquaintance with him, let me suggest that you take an earlier opportunity.

For the poetry lover I would recommend a charming series of books called "The Ormond Poets" which are published by Noel Douglas. This series are edited by G. D. H. and Margaret Cole who have made an admirable selection from a variety of poets. These volumes are quite cheap. If I remember rightly their cost is 1/6. Cheaper in price but less attractive in style is the Sixpenny Poets series which Benn issue. While for the reader interested in things more serious there is Benn's other sixpenny library which deals with such subjects as science, religion and history.

You will find in the "Travellers Library" of Jonathan Cape, in the "Phoenix Library" of Chatto and Windus and in "The Readers' Library" of Duckworth many reprints of well-known authors' writings that will appeal to you.

I would suggest that you write to any of these asking for their catalogue in any of the mentioned series. You will find that they will be quite anxious to help you.

A final word. The greatest triumph in book production this year is "The Outline of History" for 8/6. If you can't afford it put it on the list of presents you want this Christmas. I have.

*(Concluded from opposite page).*

report. Rambles have been held during the season both by day and by night. Even a Treasure Hunt has been held. Picnic and a Ping Pong Tournament are yet two other means by which members have amused themselves. On the serious side of the League's work there has been activity too. An informative talk on Malta, a lecture by Dr. Felix Kanitz, of Vienna, and a talk by Herr Klinghammer, a young student, have each helped to keep members in touch with foreign affairs. Winter will see the continuation of rambling activities and a camping section is preparing days under canvas.

**Harrow and District Federation** reports the formation of a sports association which consists of sections for tennis, netball, putting, cycling, swimming, cross country running, and camping. Debates and dances are also to be held this winter.

**LOOKING BACKWARDS.**

By JOAN WELLS.

Young people in the League of Youth will do well to take up some of the books dealing with the history of the Labour, Socialist and Trades Union movement and give them the deep study they deserve. The winter nights provide special opportunity for this. Often there will be found a member of the senior party who is well versed in this subject and who will gladly take a class in the subject if interest among members is sufficiently keen. In an instance where such a member cannot be found but where members of the League wish to study this subject they will do well to get into touch with one of the educational organisations attached to the Labour movement. Particulars about these appeared in a recent issue.

Although on first thoughts the study of trades union history may sound a very dry and dull subject, subsequent experience will prove otherwise. It is fascinating to look back into the past, to turn over the pages of old minute books, to compare the procedure of yesterday with that of to-day and to consider the problems that faced the movement yesterday in the light of those that face it now.

If this be doubted let someone procure a copy of such a book as "The Old Trades Union, From Unprinted Records of the Brushmakers," by William Kiddier (Allen and Unwin, 7s. 6d.). The author is an old Brushmaker with enthusiasm for his craft and in his days of retirement has gone over the old documents of his society and from them gathered a most human and interesting story.

The early Brushmakers were truly a band of brothers. If the law prevented them as an organisation from negotiating upon wage questions it did not stop them from helping each other in times of difficulty and distress. A hundred years before the State introduced its national insurance scheme the old Brushmakers had their plan in operation. Their unemployed members wandered from town to town in quest of work, registered at the Brushmakers' meeting place in each town, obtained their benefit, had their card stamped, and then continued their

journey. Sometimes they were given brushes to carry with them and to sell on the way. During one period of distress the Union started a business of its own in the name of two of its members so that work could be found for the brushmakers who were unemployed.

The Brushmakers' meeting places were public houses and the proprietors of these were exceedingly friendly towards them. They were often treasurer of the funds and keeper of the registers of the branches. In time of lock-outs or unemployment landlords made loans and grants to the branches. They knew the Brushmakers would keep their word to pay back the money when times became better.

Curious, too, it is to read of the quaint way in which the Brushmakers took a ballot of their members. In those days the card vote was not understood but contracting in and contracting out were policies which the men were familiar. It was necessary for the Society to adopt secret methods when taking a vote of the members. A box was sent round the workshops containing the price list, list of fair shops, and matters for discussion. Into the box members would place their votes. The box would then be collected and taken on to the next shop. It could not stay more than four hours in any one place otherwise a fine was imposed.

Mr. Kiddier has discovered much more that is interesting about his craft; he is an historian with enthusiasm for his subject and the story he has found in those old musty minute books provides a pleasing portrait of some of them who laid the foundations of the trades union movement. It is a portrait with which the younger members of the movement should be familiar. In other words, Mr. Kiddier's book is one that they should buy.

**NOTICE.**

"The League of Youth Monthly Bulletin" is issued by the Press and Publicity Department of the Labour Party. By arrangement with the "Labour Organiser" it is first published in the pages of that journal, from which it is reprinted for wider circulation.